

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL,
New York, N.Y., November 2, 1967.

Dr. JAMES L. GODDARD,
Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR DR. GODDARD: Following my return from a trip, I have been belatedly looking into the circumstances of our dispatches from Minneapolis on October 17 and 18. I find we owe you an apology.

I refer to the UPI dispatch which began, without qualification:

"Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. James Goddard says he would not object to his daughter smoking marihuana any more than if she drank a cocktail."

Unfortunately, no complete tape exists of your exchanges with reporters. The questioning began in an informal session in the front of the auditorium after your speech and no recording equipment was there. Equipment was set up in another room and only the ensuing proceedings at that place were taped.

UPI was represented by Miss Judy Vick of the University of Minnesota News Service. She says her notes show that in the questions and answers with reporters in the auditorium Victor Cohn of the Minneapolis Tribune asked whether marihuana is more dangerous than alcohol. And that you replied "Whether or not marihuana is more dangerous than alcohol is debatable. I don't happen to think it is."

Miss Vick says that Mr. Cohn then asked whether you would mind if your daughter smoked marihuana any more than if she drank a cocktail, and that you replied "No, except in the context of the present law." I take that to be a reference to the fact that marihuana is illegal and alcohol is legal.

Mr. Cohn's recollection is that his question was to the effect "Would you mind if your daughter took marihuana?" His notes have you responding: "We have talked about it at home. I would (that is, would object) in terms of the law today" and "we really don't know what the long-term effects (of marihuana) are." Followed by some comments about distortion of perception following use of marihuana.

So it has become clear to me that UPI erred in attributing to you unqualified statements which in fact were considerably qualified.

I am sorry if UPI has compounded your problems. We are prepared to carry a dispatch acknowledging our error.

In view of the public uncertainty that now exists as to what you do and do not believe, I hope you will sit down with our Louis Cassels so that he can prepare a definitive dispatch. I believe you know Mr. Cassels and his outstanding record for accuracy and fairness. Please let me know.

Several members of Congress have inquired about our original story, and I am taking the liberty of sending them copies of this letter.

Sincerely,

JULIUS FRANDSEN,
Vice President and Washington Manager.

Dr. GODDARD. Mr. Chairman, to move on very briefly to the more important area, you know we are responsible for carrying out the Drug Abuse Control Amendments of 1965. The members of this committee were active in helping get those amendments through Congress and are very interested in them. The drugs under our control that we are responsible for are the hallucinogens, the stimulants, the depressants. These include drugs that are manufactured for legal purposes as well as a group of drugs, largely the hallucinogens, that have no recognized medical purpose at this time. Since the establishment of our Bureau of Drug Abuse Control in February of 1966, we have conducted over 2,000 criminal investigations. A third of these have involved the hallucinogens, meaning LSD, peyote, mescaline, psilocybin. But I want to make the point that in nine out of 10 of these investigations, we have encountered marihuana. It is actively being sold